

JAMES ELLIOT—PETITION OF.

JUNE 6, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

The undersigned, who was a soldier in the army of the west, under the command of General Anthony Wayne, in the years 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796, in behalf of a number of his surviving fellow-soldiers, and himself, petitions and prays that Congress would pass a law granting them pensions for their military services. The survivors of the regular army are few in number; and the remaining volunteers from the then frontier settlements of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio, who served a sufficient time to entitle them to pensions, cannot be numerous. Those who yet live served in the bud and bloom of their lives; their toils were severe; their privations great; their discipline rigid; as soldiers they were "without fear, and without reproach;" and the result was rich in benefit, and honor to their country. Their compensation was excessively parsimonious, even far below the nominal pay of the soldiers of the army of the revolution. In reference to this fact, if a law be passed for their relief, it is solicited that it may contain a special provision, fixing the pensions, relatively to the various grades, at the same sums that are now given to the pensioners of the United States. Your petitioner, although one of the great mass of poor men, is not in that state of deep poverty which requires a pension as essential to existence: unanxious for himself, he prays for a national act of mere justice to his surviving fellow-soldiers, some of whom are in circumstances more needy and more gloomy than his own. We read in sacred writ, *a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver*; and he would fain hope that a word to the wise legislators of his country, spoken with all due fitness and respect, and at a proper time, may induce a quick decision of the question involved in this petition, a question which is not a new one on the journals of Congress. It has been agitated for years, and it is hoped that it may be put at rest during the present session. The army, in which the petitioners were soldiers, was long employed in the defence and protection of the pioneers, and first inhabitants of the then border settlements, and by its toils, and its triumphs over savage foes, contributed to the foundation of a modern, which will one day surpass the ancient, republic of the west. It would be a perpetual memorial of the justice of our Government, to pay to the remnant of an army that achieved so much for our country, a small fraction of the vast revenue that has so long been flowing to the Treasury, from the scene of those toils and triumphs, a fertile and rich region, constituting, at this day, a number of the most populous and powerful States of our great and glorious republic.

JAMES ELLIOT.

*New Fane, Vt. April 13, 1836.*

